

STUTTGART NATIONAL AQUACULTURE RESEARCH CENTER
ACT OF 1995

NOVEMBER 28, 1995.—Committed to the Committee of the Whole House on the
State of the Union and ordered to be printed

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska, from the Committee on Resources,
submitted the following

REPORT

[To accompany H.R. 33]

[Including cost estimate of the Congressional Budget Office]

The Committee on Resources, to whom was referred the bill (H.R. 33) to transfer the Fish Farming Experimental Laboratory in Stuttgart, Arkansas, to the Department of Agriculture, and for other purposes, having considered the same, report favorably thereon without amendment and recommend that the bill do pass.

PURPOSE OF THE BILL

The purpose of H.R. 33 is to transfer the Fish Farming Experimental Laboratory in Stuttgart, Arkansas, to the Department of Agriculture and to rename the facility the Stuttgart National Aquaculture Research Center.

BACKGROUND AND NEED FOR LEGISLATION

The Fish Farming Experimental Laboratory was authorized by the Fish and Rice Rotation Act of 1958 (Public Law 85-342). The original law that created this Federal lab provided that it be administered by the Department of Agriculture. However, because the Department of the Interior already had an established fisheries program, Congress assigned responsibility over the laboratory to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

The Secretary of the Interior purchased 86 acres of land near Stuttgart, Arkansas. The Laboratory was established in 1960 for the purpose of conducting research and experimentation to develop methods for the commercial production of warmwater fish, with emphasis on channel catfish and bait minnows, and to publicize the

results of these investigations. The initial laboratory facilities were constructed in 1961 and the present system of research ponds, which range in size from 0.1 to 3.0 acres, was completed in 1963. A modern state-of-the-art 18,000-square-foot research laboratory has been completed and was dedicated on August 27, 1992.

In 1993, the Laboratory was instrumental in the development of techniques for the commercial production of catfish, baitfish, and other finfish worth more than \$600 million. In 1961, the Laboratory produced about \$10 million worth of fisheries.

The State of Arkansas is the largest producer of commercial baitfish and the second largest producer of catfish in the United States, accounting for nearly \$100 million in annual revenue.

At this time, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's triploid grass carp certification inspection program is housed at the Fish Farming Experimental Laboratory. Services are provided to 30 States with a total of more than 550 triploid verification inspections each year.

In 1994, the Fish Farming Experimental Laboratory was transferred from the Fish and Wildlife Service to the National Biological Service (NBS). In its fiscal year 1996 budget submission, the Clinton Administration stated that "the Fish Farming Experimental Laboratory conducts research on warmwater aquaculture, a low research priority for the NBS. Information transfer funds are used to provide technical assistance to the warmwater aquaculture industry. The Laboratory, including the technical assistance functions, is recommended for transfer to the Department of Agriculture."

For the upcoming fiscal year, the House of Representatives has approved the expenditure of approximately \$1,025,000 for the Fish Farming Experimental Laboratory. Funding for the Laboratory consists of \$600,000 from the U.S. Department of Agriculture and \$425,000 from the Department of the Interior. This appropriation will provide operating funds and compensation for 17 Federal employees. In addition, the Committee report for the Interior and Related Agencies Appropriations bill for Fiscal Year 1996 recommends that the Stuttgart facility be transferred to the Department of Agriculture.

COMMITTEE ACTION

H.R. 33 was introduced on January 4, 1995, by Representative Blanche Lambert Lincoln. The bill was referred to the Committee on Resources, and within the Committee to the Subcommittee on Fisheries, Wildlife and Oceans.

On September 21, 1995, the Subcommittee held a hearing on H.R. 33 and other issues. The Honorable Blanche Lambert Lincoln; Mollie Beattie, Director, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service; and Dr. Floyd Horn, Deputy Under Secretary for Research, Education, and Economics, Department of Agriculture, all testified in support of the transfer of the Laboratory to the Department of Agriculture. In her testimony, Representative Lincoln indicated that "in Fiscal Year 1994 alone, over 11,000 persons from around the country contacted the lab for technical assistance. Warmwater aquaculture is worth over \$600 million at the farm level and is projected to increase."

On October 18, 1995, the Subcommittee on Fisheries, Wildlife and Oceans considered H.R. 33 in markup session and ordered it

reported favorably, without amendment, to the Full Committee on Resources by voice vote.

On November 15, 1995, the Committee on Resources met to consider H.R. 33. There were no amendments and the Committee ordered the bill reported to the House of Representatives by voice vote.

SECTION-BY-SECTION ANALYSIS

Section 1. Short title.

The short title of the bill is the "Stuttgart National Aquaculture Research Center Act of 1995."

Sec. 2. Transfer of functions to the Secretary of Agriculture

Under subsection (a), the title of Public Law 85-342 is amended by striking "Secretary of the Interior" and inserting "Secretary of Agriculture."

Under subsection (b), all references to the Secretary of the Interior are changed to Secretary of Agriculture in the portion of the law establishing stations for fish research and experimentation. In addition, references to "stations" are changed to "centers".

Under subsection (c), the statute is changed to reflect the transfer of the authority under which the Laboratory operates, including the authority to acquire lands, construct buildings, employ workers, and cooperate with other agencies, to the Department of Agriculture.

Under subsection (d), the Secretary of the Interior is authorized to cooperate with the Department of Agriculture in carrying out the law.

Sec. 3. Transfer of Fish Farming Experimental Laboratory to Department of Agriculture

Subsection (a) renames the Fish Farming Experimental Laboratory located in Stuttgart, Arkansas, as the "Stuttgart National Aquaculture Research Center" and changes all references in a law, map, regulation, document or paper, or other record to reflect the new name of the facility.

Under subsection (b), not later than 90 days after enactment, all personnel, assets, liabilities, contacts, real and personal property of the Laboratory, the records, and any unexpended appropriations, authorization, allocations, and other funds are to be transferred from the Department of the Interior to the Department of Agriculture.

COMMITTEE OVERSIGHT FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

With respect to the requirements of clause 2(l)(3) of rule XI of the Rules of the House of Representatives, and clause 2(b)(1) of rule X of the Rules of the House of Representatives, the Committee on Resources' oversight findings and recommendations are reflected in the body of this report.

INFLATIONARY IMPACT STATEMENT

Pursuant to clause 2(l)(4) of rule XI of the Rules of the House of Representatives, the Committee estimates that the enactment of H.R. 33 will have no significant inflationary impact on prices and costs in the operation of the national economy.

COST OF THE LEGISLATION

Clause 7(a) of rule XIII of the Rules of the House of Representatives requires an estimate and a comparison by the Committee of the costs which would be incurred in carrying out H.R. 33. However, clause 7(d) of that rule provides that this requirement does not apply when the Committee has included in its report a timely submitted cost estimate of the bill prepared by the Director of the Congressional Budget Office under section 403 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974.

COMPLIANCE WITH HOUSE RULE XI

1. With respect to the requirement of clause 2(l)(3)(B) of rule XI of the Rules of the House of Representatives and section 308(a) of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974, H.R. 33 does not contain any new budget authority, spending authority, credit authority, or an increase or decrease in revenues or tax expenditures.

2. With respect to the requirement of clause 2(l)(3)(D) of rule XI of the Rules of the House of Representatives, the Committee has received no report of oversight findings and recommendations from the Committee on Government Reform and Oversight on the subject of H.R. 33.

3. With respect to the requirement of clause 2(l)(3)(C) of rule XI of the Rules of the House of Representatives and section 403 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974, the Committee has received the following cost estimate for H.R. 33 from the Director of the Congressional Budget Office.

CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE COST ESTIMATE

U.S. CONGRESS,
CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE,
Washington, DC, November 22, 1995.

Hon. DON YOUNG,
*Chairman, Committee on Resources,
House of Representatives, Washington, DC.*

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: The Congressional Budget Office has reviewed H.R. 33, the Stuttgart National Aquaculture Research Center Act of 1995, as ordered reported by the House Committee on Resources on November 15, 1995. We estimate that implementing this bill would have no significant impact on the federal budget and no impact on those of state or local governments. H.R. 33 would not affect direct spending or receipts; therefore, pay-as-you-go procedures would not apply.

H.R. 33 would transfer administrative jurisdiction of the Fish Farming Experimental Laboratory in Stuttgart, Arkansas from the Department of the Interior to the Department of Agriculture and rename the facility as the Stuttgart National Aquaculture Research

Center. The facility's current funding level of about \$1 million annually would not be affected by the transfer. Furthermore, we estimate that one-time federal costs incurred to revise maps and other documents to reflect the changes made by the bill would be minimal.

If you wish further details on this estimate, we will be pleased to provide them. The CBO staff contact is Deborah Reis.

Sincerely,

JAMES L. BLUM,
(For June E. O'Neill, Director).

DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS

The Committee has received no departmental reports on H.R. 33.

CHANGES IN EXISTING LAW MADE BY THE BILL, AS REPORTED

In compliance with clause 3 of rule XIII of the Rules of the House of Representatives, changes in existing law made by the bill, as reported, are shown as follows (existing law proposed to be omitted is enclosed in black brackets, new matter is printed in italic, existing law in which no change is proposed is shown in roman):

ACT OF MARCH 15, 1958

AN ACT To authorize the [Secretary of the Interior] *Secretary of Agriculture* to establish a program for the purposes of carrying on certain research and experimentation to develop methods for the commercial production of fish on flooded rice acreage in rotation with rice field crops, and for other purposes

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the [Secretary of the Interior is authorized and directed] *Secretary of Agriculture is authorized and directed* to establish an experiment station or stations for the purpose of carrying on a program of research and experimentation—

(1) * * *

(5) to determine, in cooperation with the [Department of Agriculture] *Secretary of the Interior*, the effects of fish-rice rotations, including crops other than rice commonly grown on rice farms, upon both the fish and other crops; and

* * * * *

SEC. 2. For the purpose of carrying out the provisions of this Act[, the Secretary of the Interior is authorized], *the Secretary of Agriculture is authorized* (1) to acquire by purchase, condemnation, or otherwise such suitable lands, to construct buildings to acquire such equipment and apparatus, and to employ such officers and employees as he deems necessary; (2) to cooperate with State and other institutions and agencies upon such terms and conditions as he determines to be appropriate; and (3) to make public the results of such research and experiments conducted pursuant to the first section of this Act.

SEC. 3. The [Department of Agriculture] *Secretary of the Interior* is authorized to cooperate in carrying out the provisions of this Act

by furnishing such information and assistance as may be requested
by the **【Secretary of the Interior】** *Secretary of Agriculture*.

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